

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of forwarding post, comprising the steps of:

providing a post forwarding apparatus to determine ~~determining~~ if a current post destination address is expired,

if the said destination address is expired, automatically determining if an addressee of the said post maintains a forwarding service account, and

if the said forwarding service account is maintained, debiting the account automatically in an appropriate amount and forwarding the said post to an addressee destination address.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically offering a forwarding service account to said addressee if said addressee does not maintain a forwarding service account.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of not forwarding the said post to an addressee destination address if said addressee does not maintain a forwarding service account.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The method according to claim 3, wherein said step of not forwarding further comprises the step of destroying the said post.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The method according to claim 4, wherein said step of not forwarding further comprises a ~~select~~ pre-selected time delay prior to destruction of said post.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The method according to claim 5, wherein said step of determining, further comprises the steps of:

scanning an address face of the said post for a TAG ID, and

consulting a database for records related to said TAG ID, said records indicating said TAG ID is expired and if a redirection fee has been paid.

Claim 7 (currently amended). An apparatus for forwarding post, comprising:

means for determining if a current post destination address is expired,

means for automatically determining if an addressee of the said post maintains a forwarding service account if said destination address is expired, and

means for automatically debiting said account in an appropriate amount and forwarding the said post to an addressee destination address if said forwarding service account is maintained.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising means for automatically offering a forwarding service account to said addressee if said addressee does not maintain a forwarding service account.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for not forwarding the said post to an addressee destination address if said addressee does not maintain a forwarding service account.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for not forwarding further comprises means for destroying the said post.

Claim 11 (currently amended). The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said means for not forwarding further comprises a ~~select~~ pre-selected time delay prior to destruction of the said post.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said means for determining further comprises:

Means for scanning an address face of said post for a TAG ID, and

Means for consulting a database for records related to said TAG ID, said records indicating said TAG ID is expired and if a redirection fee has been paid.